United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.14

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
1 December 2005

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 14th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 27 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Toscano (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Switzerland)

Contents

Agenda item 73: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

05-57325 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Toscano (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 73: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.9

1. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala) expressed the gratitude of his delegation and that of El Salvador for the solidarity, condolences and support they had received in response to tropical storm Stan earlier in October, including the immediate response of friendly countries and the United Nations system, through the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. His country and El Salvador had begun to rebuild and improve the quality of life of communities affected by the disaster. His Government had developed a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme which it hoped would become a national plan that would also engage churches, civil society and the private sector.

2. Introducing draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.9 on humanitarian assistance and reconstruction for El Salvador and Guatemala, he said that the following delegations had joined the list of sponsors: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey and Zimbabwe. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/60/111 and A/60/115)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/60/129 and A/60/322)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/60/184)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/60/205)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*) (A/60/157)

3. **Mr. Jomo** (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322), said that effective and beneficial participation in the global economy required a variety of strategic actions and policy decisions, including appropriate market-oriented reforms, measures to promote economic growth and reforms of the global financial and trade regimes. Nevertheless, many developing countries had taken those steps but had not yet benefited from globalization. That had generated scepticism about the benefits of globalization and raised questions about the circumstances in which beneficial integration actually occurred. The report addressed the role of institutions in fostering the beneficial integration of developing countries into the globalization process. Successful institutions fostered inclusiveness, enhanced accountability and transparency, facilitated innovation and learning and enhanced complementarities among institutional components. Policy development and planning for institution-building and institutional reform also must take into account the importance of the human capacity of countries for implementation.

4. The report examined the implications of the institutional dimension for achieving sustained economic growth, meeting basic needs, promoting equity and promoting environmental sustainability. The analysis led to conclusions and recommendations that could form the basis for the institutional agenda and for mainstreaming it in the broader design and implementation of development strategies. Considerable scope remained for more focused and in-depth analysis and dialogue on the subjects introduced in the report. The Secretariat looked forward to hearing the views of the Committee regarding specific areas that deserved further work.

5. **Mr. Tesfachew** (Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), introducing the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on science and technology for development (A/60/184), said that the report reviewed recent and ongoing biotechnology-

related activities undertaken by United Nations entities and the status of collaboration among them and made recommendations for further strengthening system-wide coordination, especially through UN-Biotech, and the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology.

6. The report classified biotechnology-related activities within the United Nations system into a number of programme areas: increasing the availability of food and renewable raw materials; improving human health; biosafety and the environment; trade and development and capacity-building. Based on an analysis of the findings of the report, it was proposed that the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology work should work cooperatively in the context of UN-Biotech and within an integrated framework for biotechnology development. Their activities should focus on helping developing countries build productive capacity in all areas of biotechnology, such as industry, health and agriculture, as well as in risk assessment and management of biosafety. Such a framework should take advantage of existing programmes, including the newly established UNCTAD network of centres of excellence, affiliate centres of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and related work undertaken by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Given the growing importance of biotechnology for development and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, UN-Biotech must continue to explore mechanisms to help developing countries build the human capital and infrastructure necessary fully to participate in the global bioeconomy.

7. **Ms. Zlotnik** (Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/60/205), said that the report outlined the organizational details for the 2006 Dialogue, including the timing, recommendations concerning participation and the types of meetings to be held. She also drew attention to the topics for round-table discussions suggested in the report and to the suggestion that the General Assembly might wish to request wide dissemination of the Outcome so that it could be used to inform and buttress further decision-making on how best to pursue consideration of international migration in relation to development and how to enhance multilateral cooperation in the field of international migration.

8. **Ms. de Winter** (Programme Officer, New York Office, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (A/60/157), announced that the United Nations Convention against Corruption had been ratified by 30 countries and would enter into force on 14 December 2005. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was now the custodian of five important crime instruments; the fact that they had been ratified within the past five years demonstrated that strengthening the rule of law and building strong judicial systems were at the heart of social and economic progress.

9. The entry into force of the Convention would enable the Conference of States Parties to the Convention to be convened, most likely during the fourth quarter of 2006. The Conference would serve as a robust and far-reaching review body and as a forum in which developing countries and countries with economies in transition could explain the difficulties they faced with implementation and seek appropriate technical assistance.

10. The legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was in the final stage of development and would most likely be published in early 2006. The Office planned to organize pre-ratification seminars at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East and the Caribbean regions in order to encourage broad participation in the Conference of States Parties, provide opportunities to reflect on regional perspectives related to ratification and implementation issues and serve as forums in which States could review progress and exchange views and experience.

11. Document A/60/157 discussed, inter alia, the impact of corruption on stability and security, institutions and the rule of law, sustainable development and economic growth and politics. It also underscored the need for reliable and comparable data on the multidimensional impact of corruption,

illustrated how the Convention against Corruption might contribute to overcoming obstacles to curbing corruption, and made recommendations to the General Assembly for consideration and action.

12. She invited delegations to invite the relevant authorities in their countries, in particular anti-corruption bodies and organizations, to link up with the private sector and civil society to observe International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2005 and/or the entry into force of the Convention on 14 December 2005, thereby sending a clear message about the seriousness of the collective commitment to the fight against corruption.

13. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Secretary-General, by focusing in document A/60/322 on institution-building and institutional capacity, had drawn attention to a challenge which the Group of 77 and China had sought to highlight over the years. They welcomed the fact that the report recognized that a narrow focus limiting institutional reform to the liberalization of markets and arrangements for securing private property rights — which were the fundamental prescriptions of structural adjustment programmes and the Washington Consensus — were not sufficient to achieve the agreed development goals.

14. Surprisingly, the report argued that the principal challenge facing developing countries was the need to develop sound institutional foundations for the effective and efficient functioning of markets. Given the limitations of the market, non-market-based institutions such as cooperatives had often been successful in meeting the financial needs of the poor, women in particular.

15. Institutional development and capacity-building of the scale needed by the developing countries required physical and technological infrastructure beyond their financial and technical capacity. The report did not adequately address the need for a supportive and facilitative international environment to achieve those objectives. The Group of 77 and China had accorded high priority to South-South cooperation in capacity-building, including the establishment of regional cooperative arrangements, and had insisted at all United Nations conferences and summits on the need to give priority to capacity-building and institutional strengthening in developing countries. The real obstacle to the implementation of conference and summit agreements on capacity-building and institutional strengthening had been the level of external facilitation. It was therefore very surprising that the report placed the main responsibility for taking action on the developing countries and that international support and facilitation was not raised as a significant issue in the report. The Group of 77 and China had expected strong recommendations from the Secretary-General in that critical area.

16. Although the report called for a global sustained capacity and institutional development effort, it did not indicate what types of institutional innovations institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should propose for adaptation by developing countries. With regard to the call for coherence, the report of the 2005 World Summit had reaffirmed the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting. It was not clear how the recommendation in the report calling for expert-level meetings would advance a process where policy decisions were needed. The World Bank and IMF, for example, were already dealing with governance issues relating to their internal arrangements and had stated that they needed clear policy guidance. The next report of the Secretary-General on the issues discussed in document A/60/322 should offer more ideas on how coherence and participation could be advanced.

17. UN-Biotech could help to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in the field of biotechnology and even contribute to the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals. In serving as an advisory unit for developing countries, UN-Biotech must attempt to break the current pattern of biotechnology production and sales concentrated in the North and consumption in the South. The Group of 77 and China attached particular importance to section E of the report on capacity-building and welcomed the UNCTAD initiative to set up centres of excellence on science and technology in developing countries. Sufficient resources for their effective operation must be assured.

18. The Group of 77 and China supported the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in building the capacities of developing countries in new and emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and

biotechnology. They were in favour of expanding the Commission's country reviews in an effort to promote an exchange of experiences on diverse technologies in the South. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the contribution by various scientific and research institutions based in Trieste, Italy, particularly the Third World Academy of Sciences and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

19. In order to encourage the application of the latest science and technology to agriculture, health, energy, trade, water and environmental protection, the Group of 77 and China had launched an award for research by scientists from the South. The first "Group of 77 Award for Science, Technology and Innovation" had been bestowed on Professor P. Prieto of Colombia.

20. Turning to migration and development, he noted that the report of the Global Commission on International Migration made no recommendation on the content of the High-level Dialogue scheduled for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. Although it had not fully analysed the findings and recommendations contained in the Global Commission's report, Group of 77 and China believed they would assist preparations for the High-level Dialogue, and that a number of them could even be implemented earlier.

21. With regard to corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, he said that substantial sums illegally transferred from developing countries must be repatriated. He called for greater collaboration with the developed countries and their financial institutions in finding creative ways to uncover illegal transactions, trace funds and arrange for their return.

22. **Ms. Haycock** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, called for action to ensure that all countries benefited equally from globalization.

23. The European Union warmly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating the global economy (A/60/322). It agreed, in particular, that institutions imposed from the top by the Governments without the involvement of all stakeholders would not be sustainable. Rather, institutions must be accountable, inclusive and attuned to their social and historical environment. For developing countries, in particular, that was a major challenge. Fortunately, the number of institutions needed to achieve growth was much smaller than the number required to sustain it.

24. Praising the high profile given to investment in science and technology, she said that information and communication technologies could boost productivity and growth and would play a vital role in meeting internationally agreed development goals, particularly in Africa. Science and technology must be harnessed to promote development in such areas as health, agriculture and sustainable development, and to support the spread of democratic and transparent governance. Effective information societies must be based on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

25. Earlier in the year, the European Union had welcomed the importance accorded to science and technology in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In Larger Freedom" and in the report of the Commission for Africa. Investments in science and technology must be driven by local priorities and needs, and more effectively reflected in poverty reduction strategies and national strategic planning and budgeting.

26. Turning to the issue of corruption, she said that the European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's acknowledgement, in his report, that corruption posed a severe threat to sustainable development. The fight against corruption must be aimed at achieving good governance, transparent and accountable public financial management systems, equitable and efficient tax systems and stable and predictable public investment climates. She called for the mobilization and effective use of domestic and external resources and the full integration of the Millennium Development Goals into country-owned pans and poverty reduction strategies. The European Union looked forward to the first Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and urged more countries to ratify the Convention. Further steps should be taken to monitor implementation of the Convention.

27. Globalization was changing the face of migration and creating new opportunities as well as new challenges for countries of origin, destination and transit. The European Union worked in partnership with both source and transit countries and believed that international cooperation and partnership were necessary in order to deal with migration issues in a coordinated and coherent manner. Regional cooperation and recognition of the differing concerns of States would be vital to that end. The Union acknowledged the important connection between international migration and development, followed closely the work of the Commission on International Migration and Development and looked forward to the High-level Dialogue on migration and development. In September 2005, the European Commission had published a communication on migration and development. Anxious to ensure that migration occurred by choice, and that it benefited all concerned, the Union was working on promoting safer, easier and cheaper remittance transfers, enhancing the developmental impact of remittances and supporting Diaspora communities as an agent of development in their home countries. In that connection, it welcomed the resolution on remittances.

28. The European Union hoped that the focus on migration would lead to strengthened protection for refugees and displaced persons, and to measures to combat illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Development cooperation, codes of good practice and other actions were needed to offset the loss of skilled workers in vulnerable sectors and sending countries. In conclusion, she reaffirmed the Union's commitment to the protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families.

29. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322). Building institutions for sustained development was both a top priority and a major challenge for the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States.

30. The Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 specifically directed them to build institutional capacities that would strengthen social infrastructure and the delivery of social services in the areas of human health, nutrition, sanitation, education and training, including non-formal education. At the same time, it urged development partners to support initiatives relating to social safety nets, micro-credit and non-governmental organizations, to adopt policies and measures at the international level to support the integration of the least developed countries into the global economy and ensure their effective participation in economic decision-making, and to make financial and technical assistance available to them. In that connection, he noted the Secretary-General's appeal, in his report, for "fair rules" that facilitated the beneficial participation of developing countries in the global economy (A/60/322, para. 27).

31. Noting that 34 of the 50 least developed countries were in Africa, he said that the challenges discussed in the report affected the most vulnerable countries in larger measure than the rest of the developing world. The least developed countries and their national institutions were forced to adjust to a constantly changing world economy and social, political and economic environment in addition to coping with the requirements of varying stages of development. Concerned with meeting basic needs and promoting equity, the least developed countries were also disproportionately affected by the competing demands of efficiency, equity and sustainability in the globalization process.

32. Like the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the report of the Secretary-General stressed the crucial importance of international development assistance and the role of the private sector, civil society and public-private partnerships in supporting the development of the least developed countries. He praised the establishment of a performance assessment framework for donors by Mozambique, a least developed country, with a view to increasing aid effectiveness.

33. Modern globalization had created unprecedented opportunities for the free flow of capital, goods, services, information, skills and technology and offered new perspectives for integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the world economy. While migration of skilled workers from the least developed countries negatively affected their growth and development, and the brain drain was taking its toll on their health care systems, returning migrants brought back skills, knowledge and work

experience that boosted productivity. Expatriates also transmitted significant capital flows through remittances, and transferred knowledge and technology. After foreign direct investment, remittances were the largest predictable and stable source of external financing for many poor countries, far surpassing official development assistance. They also increased the availability of credit and spurred entrepreneurship and development. Supportive labour and migration policies at the international level would help to ensure that the least developed countries reaped the benefits of globalization.

34. His Office was assisting in the preparations for a ministerial conference of the least developed countries on remittances and development, an initiative of Mr. Rogatien Biaou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin and Chairman of the Group of Least Developed Countries. The conference, to be held in Cotonou in February 2006, would follow up consideration of remittances at the 2004 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and would focus on reducing transfer costs and improving remittance services, enhancing the development impact of remittances and improving research and analysis to support remittance policies and programme development. The Conference outcomes would provide excellent input to the 2006 High-level Dialogue devoted to international migration and development.

35. In conclusion, he drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/44, requesting the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields (para. 11). He hoped that those issues would be addressed in future reports, in particular, during the mid-term comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme of Action at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

36. **Mr. Poojary** (India) said that, while the developing countries benefited from the opening up of global markets, they were often subjected to unfavourable rules. Caught between the intellectual property rights and trade regimes, and loan conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and IMF, developing countries could not fully pursue their own strategies for eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth. Fair globalization required political will and a strong stance by the United Nations in favour of a development-oriented outcome of trade negotiations.

37. As development criteria shifted from manufacturing to services, and from capital resources to knowledge resources, the developing world must be able to harness the potential of non-material, knowledge-based resources to build a knowledge economy and society. His Government had created a National Knowledge Commission with a view to transforming India into a knowledge-producing, knowledge-sharing and knowledge-consuming society. Recognizing the importance of science and technology in development, it had increased its investment in research and development by approximately $1.5 billion between 1996 and 2002.

38. Globalization had increased the linkage between migration, on the one hand, and trade capacity, competitiveness and employment policy, on the other. With global companies operating in an international context, the gap between migration policy and trade policy could manifest itself in immigration controls that acted as non-tariff barriers. For globalization to be meaningful for developing countries, the developed countries would have to demonstrate far greater openness in allowing the movement of natural persons across national frontiers; that would be in keeping with their own insistence on freedom of movement in respect of capital, goods and services.

39. The role of science and technology in development could not be overemphasized. National efforts must be complemented by international rules that took account of the developing countries' need for access to a broad spectrum of technological know-how. However, it was a matter of concern that the cost of technology transfer through the intellectual property rights regime had risen sharply; there was a need for integration of the development dimension in the regime's rule-making process that would facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries. For the developing countries to prevent the misuse of their biogenetic resources, it was particularly important that the requirements of disclosure, prior informed consent and equitable benefit-sharing be incorporated in the provisions on patents of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regime in order to align it with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The United Nations should take the lead in creating a traditional knowledge and resources digital library linked to the international patent specifications system.

40. The developed countries could stimulate technological advances that had the potential to change

lives for the better while bearing in mind safety requirements and ethical values. The Secretary-General's report had rightly observed that biotechnology in the agriculture sector offered opportunities for enhancing crop production; it could also significantly contribute to the achievement of development goals. The United Nations should take the lead in exploring ways to enable developing countries to reap greater benefits from biotechnology and to assist them in their efforts to build the necessary human resources and infrastructure to participate in the bio-economy. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in New Delhi, India, had placed emphasis on research and training activities in crop improvement, biosafety and health-related issues, and had developed and patented several products which were available to the agro- and pharmaceutical industries in developing countries.

41. The Secretary-General, in his report, had focused on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integration in the global economy. Home-grown institutions were important, but there was an urgent need to create an enabling international environment to make globalization a positive force for all. In his report to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General might include an in-depth analysis of all factors linked to the process of globalization.

42. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) said that his country had established clearly defined and generous opportunities for legal immigration. The United States believed that national policies on migration should ensure that it was legal, orderly and humane. It believed that the 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development would be most effective at the sub-ministerial level, bringing experts together to discuss best practices in the management of migration at national and regional levels, ensuring fruitful discussions and reducing possibly divisive politicking.

43. The recent report of the Global Commission on International Migration had recommended the creation of an "inter-agency global migration facility", enabling more than a dozen United Nations and other international agencies to coordinate migration issues. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) would be the appropriate body to act as a focus for discussions on migration. It was unconvinced of the need for another mechanism.

44. Migration did not occur in a vacuum, and no single State could effectively manage it alone. While coordination was desirable, it must have at its core the fact that migration law and policies were the sovereign right of States. Effective coordination was best done at bilateral or regional levels, where States could focus on specific, concrete and practical issues. Globalization had made international migration an ever-growing phenomenon, and policies that promoted legal and orderly migration could benefit all countries through the exchange of cultures and ideas, through the ability of labour migration to relieve shortages in the labour force, and through the ability of countries of origin to benefit from remittances. Efforts must be made to maximize the benefits of migration and reduce its negative consequences, including the possible harm when migrants travelled in an irregular status. Effective management and coordination at national, bilateral and regional levels were of key importance in ensuring that migration remained on balance a positive phenomenon.

45. **Mr. Alim** (Bangladesh), stressing the close relationship between migration and development and the role of migration in balancing economic flows, said that massive emigration of highly skilled citizens posed troubling dilemmas for many smaller low-income countries. The challenge for developing countries was to convert the brain drain into a brain gain. International migration had not been adequately addressed either in the Millennium Development Goals or at the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting, and there was a conspicuous gap in research and analysis on how migration was linked to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

46. Migration and short-term movement of service providers were two different phenomena. Regrettably, neither the recently published report of the Global Commission on International Migration nor the World Bank publication entitled *Migration, Remittances and the Brain Drain* had adequately dealt with the issue of service providers. Multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) offered a framework for addressing migration under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. His delegation hoped that the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference would make meaningful progress in that regard. Facilitating remittance flows was another action with potentially high payoffs. Host countries must ensure unhindered transfer of funds to the countries of origin

with minimal transaction costs. Sending countries should also help diasporas use remittances properly, invest back home and reintegrate upon their return.

47. Bangladesh belonged to the supply side of the world labour market. International migration of labour was a central issue in the country's economic planning. Total earnings from remittances had increased by about 14.2 per cent between 2004 and 2005. Remittances made a significant contribution to the gross national product and helped offset a negative balance of payments by providing 30 per cent of export earnings and some 20 per cent of import payments.

48. Given the immense potential of welfare gains from migration and short-term movement of service providers, policies were needed to ensure that such gains were not wasted. His delegation hoped that the High-level Dialogue on international migration to be held in 2006 would lay the foundation for enhanced international cooperation in that area.

49. **Mr. Mammadov** (Azerbaijan) said that in the context of globalization and interdependence his country fully supported a focus on the institutional dimension and an analysis of the challenges associated with institutional development. The country-specific approach should be an essential component in the process of establishing and adapting institutions, and progress in addressing the issue of the global institutional gap was required because of its impact on the sustainability of institutional reforms at national level. Azerbaijan had undertaken an improvement of its public administration as an integral element of its institutional reform. Its institutional framework had been improved in order to increase efficiency between the public and private sectors. Judicial and legal reforms were a key component in its institution-building process. Azerbaijan shared concern regarding the growing social institutional gap, and considered that, on a broader scale, the redesign of policies on social inclusion and integration was required. For those policies to be effective, the economic capacities of developing countries should be enhanced by an enabling international environment.

50. Corruption was one of the major impediments to economic and social development, and Azerbaijan had attached great importance to international cooperation in that field, signing and ratifying a number of relevant international conventions, and undertaking extensive measures to meet its international obligations by improving its anti-corruption legislative framework and law enforcement institutions.

51. Azerbaijan attached great importance to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development, and welcomed the increased attention being given to the subject by the United Nations system, notably in respect of efforts to maximize the development impact of migration.

52. **Ms. Grindlay** (Australia) said that the key to maximizing the benefits from migration, including its development potential for both countries of destination and countries of origin, was to maximize national capacities to manage migration effectively. Australia agreed with the international community supporting the efforts of States to formulate and implement national migration policies through the contribution of resources, expertise and training.

53. Australia had had a managed migration policy for more than 50 years, after considerable investment of resources and commitments by successive Governments. The policy was global and non-discriminatory. Australia operated parallel humanitarian and migration programmes. The humanitarian programme helped to protect refugees and those in situations of serious humanitarian need. The migration programme included a segment that supported the skills needs of business and industry and ensured that skilled migrants could integrate quickly into the labour market, and a segment for the reunion of close family members. Australia also had a range of temporary entry mechanisms. Migrants entering the country lawfully under all those programmes were protected by the same labour rights and human rights as Australian citizens. While facilitating legal entry, Australia also sought to combat the exploitation of workers and the illegal activities of people smugglers and traffickers.

54. The development impacts of migration policies relied in large part on the actions and capacities of countries of origin, which needed to create jobs and sustainable livelihoods in order to retain key personnel and to implement macroeconomic policies that supported economic growth and competitiveness so that the benefits of remittances could be maximized. In some cases, development assistance could help to build that environment. Australia was working to help other States meet those challenges. Bilaterally it had supported a number of States in undertaking

assessments of their border management, and it had also been a strong supporter of regional processes. Better coordination between United Nations agencies with an interest in migration would support and assist States with a range of actions to improve migration capacities. The 2006 High-level Dialogue should include a focus on capacity-building in migration management.

55. **Mr. Berrah** (Algeria) said that two fundamental questions were raised by the agenda item: how globalization could be made a factor for development and integration rather than a factor for excluding changing economies, and how to make international migration a genuine instrument of development for the countries of origin and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. There was also the need to determine the nature of the link between international migration and globalization, which was ambiguous and deserved greater attention, particularly in terms of ensuring a balance between globalization-specific and migration-specific issues. The relationship between the two was often addressed from a purely economic point of view, neglecting other important dimensions and impacts. Insufficient emphasis, for example, was given to the contradictory pressures exerted by globalization on both the developed and the developing countries. While there was a growing demand in the developed countries for foreign workers, there was also a growing fear of job losses and cultural changes attributed to globalization. The selective policies adopted in reaction to such concerns were increasingly influenced by radical political movements, which used the climate of suspicion and fear created by terrorist attacks as an opportunity to sow confusion and doubt in people's minds by establishing a supposed link between migrants and terrorist attacks. That had had the effect of creating a climate of mistrust towards foreigners, and particularly Muslims.

56. Another factor that was not discussed was the influence of the flagrant imbalances created by globalization in terms of quality of life on the desire of people from developing countries to migrate to developed countries. When they encountered restrictive conditions and policies of selective migration, they became disillusioned and swelled the ranks of foreigners in irregular situations.

57. There was no simple causal link between international migration and development. Migration could have positive and negative impacts on both the countries of destination and the countries of origin. The reports emphasized the importance of migrants' remittances as an instrument of financing for development. In that connection, it should be borne in mind that migration represented a considerable cost initially to households and States of origin before it made its contribution through remittances to national and local economies; remittances should be regarded as private funds and not as a substitute for ODA and FDI; international migration involved a transfer of human capital and skills that was damaging for developing countries which saw no return on their investments and on the substantial sums allocated to education and training; finally, the use of migrants for political purposes had the serious effect of making their situation even more precarious.

58. The selection of international migration and development as the subject of the 2006 High-level Dialogue demonstrated a growing awareness of the importance of the issue, and his delegation hoped that equal attention would be given to its economic, social and human dimensions. In order to ensure an inclusive and multidisciplinary dialogue, the expertise and experience of institutions specializing in the subject should be tapped. There should be a long-term strategy based on a genuine partnership. The Dialogue should above all consider the fundamental causes of clandestine migration, particularly the inequalities caused by globalization which had terrible consequences for local and national economies, and the absence of coherence and coordination at subregional and regional levels in determining and implementing migration policies.

59. **Mr. Chulkov** (Russian Federation) expressed support for the conclusions and recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/322), particularly the organization of expert-level meetings for in-depth analysis of issues pertaining to institutional development. The Russian Federation considered it advisable to continue, at forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly, to consider the most topical, individual and fundamental aspects of the phenomenon of globalization and interdependence. Effective control of the processes of globalization in order to neutralize their negative consequences and enhance their positive impact in the interest of achieving the Millennium Development Goals was possible only if the

international community adopted a collective and holistic approach.

60. The Russian Federation favoured cooperation in science and technology in order to achieve sustainable development and bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. Using the potential of biotechnology in tackling problems of food security, industrial development, health care and protection of the environment was of vital importance. He noted the important role of United Nations organizations working in the area of biotechnology, and mentioned in particular that Russian scientific institutions were actively involved in the work of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. There was a need to promote United Nations cooperation in the area of science and technology for sustainable development in a consistent manner and through an integrated approach, establishing a broad framework for joint action that took into account the social, economic, political and cultural consequences of their practical application.

61. Regional cooperation was one of the most effective ways of regulating international migration, as had been demonstrated within the Commonwealth of Independent States and between the Russian Federation and the European Union. The 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development should consider the multidimensional aspects, with emphasis on the control of migratory processes and analysis of the causes and impact on political, socio-economic and demographic situations in countries of origin, transit and destination.

62. The Russian Federation regarded it as a matter of priority to expand international cooperation to prevent and eradicate corruption, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin. Expressing the hope that the United Nations Convention against Corruption would enter into force as soon as possible, he said that the Russian Federation was taking national and regional steps to combat corruption and to return transferred assets of illicit origin to countries of origin.

63. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) said that Morocco had recently become a transit and receiving country for migrants from the sub-Saharan region. Migrants were often victims of human trafficking, and Morocco was determined to combat the criminal networks that engaged in such activities. Bilateral and regional cooperation were needed, and individual countries must take responsibility for guarding their borders and cooperating in the effort to combat the problem. His country had consistently worked to combat illegal immigration within the framework of its domestic legislation and with full respect for the human rights, security and socio-economic rights of all immigrants, including those who were repatriated. It was encouraging to note that the number of successful attempts to cross the Moroccan border and enter Europe illegally had fallen by 40 per cent during the first nine months of 2005 compared with the same period in 2004. The Government had allocated substantial resources for returning persons in transit to their countries of origin. The Government's efforts to combat illegal immigration placed a serious burden on the national budget and the economy as a whole. Because Morocco had become a target country for illegal immigration, it could not bear the burden alone. Thanks to cooperation between his country and Spain, France, the European Union and the sub-Saharan African countries, successful North-South and South-South partnerships had been developed. His Government was looking forward to strengthening cooperation with the countries of the Maghreb, particularly Algeria. Morocco and Spain had decided to request the convening of a ministerial-level meeting of African and European countries to consider the complex phenomenon in all its facets.

64. A global approach, including multidimensional cooperation at the regional and international levels, was needed to address the issue of migration. Sending countries, transit countries and receiving countries must work together to find lasting solutions, developing genuine partnerships between the countries concerned. The contribution of developed countries to assistance programmes in Africa was crucial. Implementation of economic and social projects would also play an important role in reducing illegal immigration.

65. His Government's policies were designed to involve all sectors of the economy in creating favourable conditions for production and employment and absorbing the abundant supply of labour in those areas where migration was most likely to occur. In May 2005, the Government had launched the National Human Development Initiative. In cooperation with the sub-Saharan countries and in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Morocco was carrying out a number of initiatives with

private sector participation that were aimed at setting up South-South partnerships for sustainable development.

66. His delegation looked forward to the High-level Dialogue to be held at the United Nations in 2006, which would contribute to developing a global and comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of migration.

67. **Mr. Yao** Wenlong (China), speaking on item 54 (a), said that sound and viable institutions were vital for sustaining economic growth, regulating and adjusting the process of globalization and reconciling different interests. Each country had to tailor its institutions to its particular circumstances and needs while drawing on the experience of others. The international community should encourage and support efforts by developing countries in that regard.

68. At the international level, the main challenge in addressing institutional problems lay in the asymmetry of globalization. The international community must promote a pro-development model of globalization through reform of the global economic system and establishment of an open, fair, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trade and financial system. It was also important to establish fairer rules of competition between partners and increase the participation of developing countries in international economic affairs and in the decision-making process. No country was immune from the challenges posed by globalization. As the major beneficiaries of globalization, the developed countries had the duty to help their traditional domestic industries and labour forces that were no longer competitive. Promoting liberalization only for those industries that had gained an edge and imposing high barriers to protect their sunset industries would entail high economic costs and be politically short-sighted.

69. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (A/50/184), he said that the technological activities of various organs of the United Nations system should be strengthened, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide policy guidance. Emphasis should be placed on addressing the concerns of the developing countries.

70. Migration had a positive impact on the economies of many countries. In order to maximize the positive effect of international migration on worldwide development, all countries should formulate sound immigration policies, and the international community should strengthen international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. In addition, further studies should be made of the differences in geography, history, culture and level of development of various countries which gave rise to migration.

71. Turning to item 54 (d), on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin, he said that the Chinese Government maintained a firm position against corruption. China had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2003 and had adopted a number of important policy measures, focusing especially on legislation and institution-building. In January 2005, China had launched a programme on prevention of corruption. His Government stood ready to strengthen cooperation with all countries in the fight against corruption.

72. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration) said that the increasing relevance of migration was evident in the fact that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was experiencing an ongoing growth in membership and in the increased demand for dialogue, cooperation and partnership on migratory questions on the part of sovereign States, regional and intergovernmental organizations, local administrations, NGOs and civil society. The International Dialogue on Migration, which since 2002 had been the centrepiece of the annual IOM Council meeting, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome reflected the need to find new forms of international cooperation to tackle migratory issues. The High-level Dialogue on migration and development called for by General Assembly resolutions 58/208 and 59/241 represented a timely and unique opportunity to build on the significant developments he had mentioned. His organization looked forward to contributing to the preparation of the High-level Dialogue as well as to actively taking part in it. The decision to hold the High-level Dialogue had achieved the important goal of placing the link between migration and development high on the agenda of all interested parties. The next step would be to mainstream migration in current development frameworks. That would be consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and could become one of the priorities of the High-level Dialogue.

73. More attention was also being given to the potential benefits of diaspora involvement in home communities. His organization had been encouraging and supporting the development of networks and programmes among expatriate communities for development purposes and could help identify and organize the participation of representatives from diaspora organizations in the High-level Dialogue. The economic impact of South-South migration flows also deserved to be carefully discussed and valued.

74. Greater international cooperation was also needed to protect the human rights of migrants. The High-level Dialogue could serve as a forum to promote at the highest level the ratification of or accession to the applicable international legal instruments, as well as to identify measures to assist developing countries in implementing their provisions.

75. The collective capacity to manage the migration phenomenon should be addressed in a more holistic manner. Active participation of regional consultative processes in the High-level Dialogue could facilitate a broader knowledge of their achievements and foster dialogue among them.

76. Beyond regional mechanisms, the High-level Dialogue could present an ideal opportunity to assess progress achieved within some of the global processes he had mentioned and to discuss proposals made recently by the Global Commission on International Migration in the area of managing migration. It would also offer a chance to enhance commonality of purpose and to avoid duplication among multilateral agencies. The Geneva Migration Group, established with the participation of IOM, already brought together the heads of six agencies dealing with migration. The High-level Dialogue might consider ways of building on and expanding efforts in that area.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.15

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
16 November 2005

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 28 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

05-57604 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/60/11 and A/60/115)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/60/129 and A/60/322)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/60/184)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/60/205)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*) (A/60/157)

1. **Mr. Amin-Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran), noting the important role that new and emerging technologies, including biotechnology, could play in enhancing productivity and accelerating the development of nations, reiterated that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide policy guidance, especially with regard to issues of relevance to developing countries. He welcomed the establishment of UN-Biotech as an interagency coordination mechanism whose work in the five broad programme areas was highly relevant and commended the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology for, among other things, conducting training courses, building up national capacities, financing collaborative research projects and fellowship programmes, as well as environmentally sound management of biotechnology and biosafety. His delegation agreed with the proposal that UN-Biotech should serve as an advisory unit for developing countries on new trends in biotechnology innovations, policy and trade. Focus on the areas described in paragraph 11 of the report (A/60/184) could help developing countries achieve their internationally agreed goals and targets.

2. His Government believed that bioethics was one of the most important interdisciplinary branches of science. It had accordingly hosted the International Congress of Bioethics in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Congress had afforded a unique opportunity for scientists to discuss the most important aspects of biological sciences from an ethical point of view. His delegation also welcomed the initiative by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to review, on a voluntary basis, national policies concerning science, technology and innovation.

3. **Mr. de Rivero** (Peru) said that, as long as the technological and socio-political factors currently fuelling international migration persisted, migration would be unstoppable. International migration offered benefits and presented challenges to both sending and receiving countries. Migration to developed countries, which was seen as a way out for poor, conflict-racked developing countries, could mitigate the problem of population ageing in most developed countries and allow those countries to maintain their current levels of economic productivity.

4. International migration should be at the heart of the international agenda. Plans of action were needed to address the different dimensions of that complex phenomenon. To that end, Peru had taken the initiative, with the support of the Group of 77 and China, of convening a special international conference, at the ministerial level, of developing countries with substantial international migration flows, to be held in Lima in April 2006. The conference would cover all the major topics of international migration, including the regularization of migrant workers in receiving countries, respect for the human rights of migrant workers, and the vital matter of reducing the transaction costs of migrant remittances to countries of origin.

5. The perverse attempts to consider migrants' remittances as a source of financing for development were unacceptable. There was a difference between informing migrants about investment options and attempting to put to productive use the private resources that migrants sent to their countries of origin. Those making such proposals should focus on honouring the commitments they had made to achieve a genuine global partnership for development. Lastly, he sought clarification as to the meaning of "migration management". He hoped the term did not hide an attempt to impose tighter restrictions on the movement of persons around the world.

6. **Mr. Elmejerbi** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in order to ensure that the benefits of globalization included the developing countries, the international community should meet its obligations and responsibilities by first maintaining its commitment to the global partnership for development in accordance with the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It should also recognize that, in a globalizing economy, exclusive reliance on the market mechanism was not enough to meet the challenge of achieving the agreed development goals. Sound management and the supremacy of the law in the national and international contexts of globalization were essential, along with support for the full and effective participation of the developing countries in decision-making, the elaboration of international economic rules and the promotion of transparency in the financial and monetary systems and in international trade. A fair and non-discriminatory multilateral trade regime should give priority to the development dimension and the advanced countries should pursue economic policies that afforded more opportunities for the developing countries to achieve such objectives as the Millennium Development Goals. The developing countries similarly required more accessible and affordable technology; the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis in November 2005, would serve as a catalyst for bridging the current digital divide.

7. With reference to the proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, he emphasized that programmes and policies developed in the context of globalization should be fully consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and with international law and efforts should be made to establish a fairer international economic system that allowed all countries to grow and develop. He welcomed the high-level dialogue to be devoted to international migration and development in 2006 and hoped that it would address all aspects of migration with a view to enlarging its benefits and minimizing its adverse effects on socio-economic development in all countries. Lastly, he outlined the efforts of the international community to combat corruption, which was a serious obstacle to the effective mobilization and distribution of resources for activities aimed at achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty and hunger. In June 2005, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, having initially signed it in December 2003.

8. **Mr. Cordovez** (Ecuador) said that the issue of migration must be addressed in a comprehensive and transparent manner with a view to achieving realistic solutions. The main causes of international migration were extreme poverty, social marginalization and high unemployment in developing countries. Migration was of crucial importance to Ecuador, where it had both a positive and negative impact. That was why his delegation hoped that the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development would lead to the adoption of concrete measures and recommendations on policies to address the challenges of migration.

9. Ecuadorian immigrants contributed to the economic growth of the receiving societies. He appealed to all Governments, especially in recipient countries, to ensure that all the rights of migrants were protected, especially their right to decent wages, social protection and jobs that matched their skills and education. Ecuador continued to support the strict control of migration, active cooperation between sending and receiving countries and between such countries and international organizations. He urged the international community to enhance its cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, including through coordination mechanisms, training of civil servants and adoption of legislation.

10. Remittances were private funds to be used by migrants as they saw fit. The entities that benefited from such remittances should offer more flexible terms to the migrant communities. However, the transaction costs of remittances severely hindered investment and savings in the migrants' countries of origin. His delegation would therefore support any efforts to reduce such transaction costs, including during the High-level Dialogue.

11. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) noted that the number of migrants had increased from 82 million in 1970 to the current figure of 200 million. Migrants currently made up 3 per cent of the world population. Yet, despite its intrinsic importance and cross-cutting nature, migration received only sporadic attention. The High-level Dialogue should provide a unique opportunity for the international community to

comprehensively address the multifaceted phenomenon of international migration. It was ironic that, while considerable energy and resources were spent on securing the free movement of goods, very little was being done to facilitate the movement of persons — another factor of production. Something must be done to secure a truly fair and genuinely development-oriented global trading regime that dealt equally and equitably with the movement of goods and services, including that of labour.

12. The factors that triggered migration should also be addressed. Pakistan agreed that States and the private sector should consider introducing temporary migration programmes as a means of addressing the economic needs of sending and destination countries. Exploring and facilitating channels for regular migration would help to maximize the developmental impact of migration in both receiving and sending States as well as reduce human trafficking and abuse of migrant rights. A global partnership and a multi-stakeholder approach were needed. Without the requisite machinery and institutional support, it would be difficult to generate and sustain coherence and coordination on migration issues. His delegation was ready to consider various ideas, including the proposal to establish an international global migration facility. The Economic and Social Council should also play an important role in furthering the global discourse on migration.

13. Turning to science and technology for development, he noted that industrialization was the key to high GDP growth. Development and poverty alleviation depended on the ability of nations to move from agricultural to knowledge-based economies, which could be achieved only by producing goods of high added value. Thus the most critical component for socio-economic advancement was knowledge and innovation. Regrettably, the promise of science and technology had remained unfulfilled and technology had often become a great divider. Creating links between knowledge generation and development was one of the greatest challenges facing developing countries. He hoped that the Summit Outcomes would provide the necessary impetus for urgently needed actions in that area. In that regard, he recalled the proposals for specific national and international actions to help developing countries effectively use science and technology to achieve their development objectives and goals put forward by the President of Pakistan at the Global Roundtable Forum on Investment and Innovation: Scaling Science and Technology to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

14. His Government had taken a number of preventive and curative measures to reduce the impact of corruption and of the outflows of assets acquired through corruption on economic growth and sustainable development. However, corruption was a transnational crime that required concerted international action, particularly measures to return illegally acquired assets to the countries of origin. Indeed, the prompt return of such assets acted as a serious deterrent against corrupt practices. He hoped that the elements examined in the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/60/157) would be analysed more extensively in future, given the top priority assigned by world leaders to tackling corruption.

15. **Ms. Ruder** (Switzerland) said that, in view of the growth of international migration, it was necessary to examine its multiple facets in order to strengthen the positive aspects and combat the undesirable effects. In an increasingly interdependent world, discussions at the global level were important to enhance the potential for economic, cultural and social development inherent in migration.

16. Switzerland had been working towards that goal for several years. In December 2004, the International Agenda for Migration Management had been launched within the framework of the Berne Initiative. It described common perceptions and effective practices for a coordinated, planned and balanced approach to migration management. Switzerland had also been one of the five founding countries of the Global Commission on International Migration. The Commission's report would provide a frame of reference for States, helping them examine the complex issue of migration and evolve a holistic and coordinated approach.

17. The High-level Dialogue in 2006 would be an essential phase of the discussion on migration; the definition and application of a general policy on migration was the responsibility of each State, but the United Nations was the appropriate forum to examine aspects relating to social, cultural and economic development. Regarding the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/60/205), her delegation considered that a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the

multidimensional aspects of migration and development would provide a good basis for discussions during the High-level Dialogue. The report of the Global Commission on International Migration would also be useful and an interactive exchange of ideas would allow sensitive aspects to be discussed in a favourable environment.

18. **Mr. Baja** (Philippines) welcomed the recognition in the 2005 World Summit Outcome of the important linkages between international migration and development, and the need to address the issue in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The 2006 High-level Dialogue should focus on four important areas: the nexus between migration and development; remittances, especially measures to reduce transfer costs; the need to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families; and the enhancement of global governance and cooperation on international migration. There was a need for greater consultation at the national, regional and international levels in order to manage migratory flows smoothly. Also, clarification of the role of the different United Nations bodies and agencies was required, as well as that of other institutions dealing with migration, so as to ensure coherence.

19. Overseas employment was driven by the demand for particular skills in one country and the availability of skilled manpower in another and should benefit both. The Philippines was a major labour-exporting country, with almost 9 per cent of the population living outside the country; the dollar remittances of its workers abroad helped the country's economy. However, one of the most common problems encountered by overseas workers was violation of their basic rights. The Philippines believed that a good welfare and protection programme benefited both the workers and the receiving country and had elaborated a programme that took the whole employment process into consideration. It also continued to forge and upgrade bilateral or multilateral arrangements with host Governments, since experience had shown that migration problems were attended to more effectively when the entry of Philippine workers into a host country was governed by an agreement.

20. Philippine contract workers would continue to be in high demand because of their education, training and work ethic and there were several lessons to be learned from the country's migration experience: there was no substitute for good governance in migration management; regulation must continue if the basic safety nets were to be ensured; and global competitiveness in labour migration should take into account the potential benefits of overseas employment and reward it accordingly. Managing international migration required collective internal and international efforts and should support the value of orderly movement over irregular migration while acknowledging the increasing desire of migrants to participate in the activities of their host countries. The right of States to prescribe appropriate conduct and behaviour for people seeking to settle in their territories should give due consideration to the important role of migrant workers in the growth and development of the economy. Lastly, his delegation hoped that the report of the Global Commission on International Migration would generate awareness of the issue of migration and encourage a comprehensive debate.

21. **Mr. Tameo** (Papua New Guinea) said that most developing countries were faced with extreme pressure to cope with globalization and interdependence by undertaking policy and institutional reforms. National institutions had to function effectively, transparently and coherently to ensure a system-wide approach to implementing government policies. However, institutions in developing countries were weak and had difficulty adapting to change; they also faced severe resource and manpower constraints that affected the country's ability to take advantage of the benefits and opportunities of the globalization process. Given the enormity of the tasks and their urgency, Papua New Guinea called on the United Nations system and other development partners to support its national efforts.

22. Small island developing States needed flexible arrangements such as streamlined reporting requirements for related issues, so that one report could be prepared for two or more closely connected matters. Also, the ability of the Pacific island countries to deal with issues such as international terrorism depended to a large extent on regional collaborative efforts, which could be further strengthened by allowing one regional report to be compiled that clearly reflect the situation in each member country.

23. Official development assistance (ODA) was important to help developing countries achieve national development objectives as well as international commitments, such as the Millennium Development Goals; however, mutual understanding

and partnership were needed to address issues of ODA management and absorptive capacity in recipient countries. In that respect, the performance assessment framework developed by Mozambique and its donor partners was of considerable interest. Moreover, developing countries should participate in the policy and decision-making process of the international financial institutions.

24. Papua New Guinea faced challenges in providing basic health services, owing to the lack of trained medical personnel and resources, compounded by the spread of HIV/AIDS and the resurgence of malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases. It would welcome a concrete proposal to enable developing countries to eliminate user fees for basic health services and provide free mosquito nets as vital steps to assist the poor.

25. Corruption was a major impediment to achieving economic growth, prosperity and sustainable development goals. Despite his country's commitment to combat corruption, its efforts often fell short owing to lack of adequate technical and human capacity, as well as financial and other resource constraints. It therefore called for the support and assistance of the international community. Given the importance of the issue, it was in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption and intended to ensure its full implementation at the national level.

26. **Mr. Ndjonkou** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said the organization was particularly concerned about the protection of migrant workers, especially since international migration was likely to increase. Factors inherent in globalization were reducing employment in countries of origin and, to date, some 120 million workers and their families had migrated. The issue therefore was how to manage migration for the benefit of all stakeholders.

27. ILO had been working to promote an understanding of managing labour migration as a positive economic and social force in a globalized economy, which potentially provided one of the most important instruments for regional, economic and social integration. To that end, it was trying to develop the knowledge base; promote relevant international conventions; strengthen relevant social dialogue; provide capacity-building and technical assistance, as well as special action programmes to protect vulnerable groups, and generally build an international consensus for cooperation on migration.

28. Extending the protection of basic rights to all migrant workers was more imperative than ever and the provisions of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions applied, without distinction, to all migrant workers regardless of their legal status. The ILO mandate in that regard had been significantly boosted by the adoption of the resolution and conclusions on a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy in 2004. True to its mandate and its decent work agenda, the organization had prepared a plan of action that included activities related to employment in countries of origin and destination, social dialogue, rights and work, and protection of migrant workers. As part of the implementation of the plan, it had also prepared a draft non-binding multilateral framework on labour migration and a compilation of best practices to assist policymakers.

29. ILO welcomed the inclusion of migration in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the 2006 High-level Dialogue and the report of the Global Commission on International Migration. In the coming years, ILO would pursue a rights-based approach to migration. In cooperation with its tripartite constituents, the organization would seek to influence the global migration agenda with a view to contributing to the quest for decent work and the satisfactory management of migration.

30. **Mr. Wibisono** (Indonesia) said that globalization could benefit all parties, but could also sow seeds of discontent. The institutional dimensions of the challenge of integrating the global economy could be addressed by strong involvement of national institutions in maximizing economic growth while promoting social goals and protection of the environment. Nevertheless, the development and adaptation of such institutions was not easy and needed to take into account the goals of social equity and environmental sustainability. When considering institutional reform, Indonesia had decided that addressing the needs of the poor would be a priority and a milestone in promoting rapid, broad-based and sustainable growth and development.

31. With regard to the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322), Indonesia agreed that

government institutions must be flexible to address the many challenges of globalization. However, developed countries and international organizations must continue to provide active and non-discriminatory assistance to support the establishment of such institutions. In view of the cross-regional effects of globalization on all sectors, no country could deal with the issue comprehensively on its own.

32. The President of Indonesia had decreed that corruption would not be tolerated and every branch of the Government had been mandated to track down any remaining cases, while new laws required the national authorities to ensure the transparency and accountability of public administration. Arrangements for mutual legal assistance had been established with Australia, China, the Republic of Korea and most members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, while Indonesia had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was finalizing the ratification process.

33. On the issue of international migration and development, some 2.6 million Indonesians worked abroad, sending around $3.4 billion in remittances every year. Indonesia was strongly committed to protect its citizens who worked abroad and had recently drafted national laws to protect Indonesian migrant workers and to combat trafficking in persons. However, no country could tackle the issue alone and coordination and cooperation among countries was essential. In the absence of any real international mechanism, Indonesia had played an active role at the regional level in discussions on migration. It therefore welcomed the High-level Dialogue to be held in 2006, and believed strongly that the International Organization for Migration should participate in the Dialogue and welcomed its contribution at the regional and subregional level.

34. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) drew attention to the anticipated impact of the population explosion on the potential benefits of globalization. All the demographic growth was taking place in poor countries, and mostly in urban areas. New cities would be created in poor countries, at unsuitable locations, subject to constraints imposed by energy limitations and placing higher food demands on shrinking agricultural land. He doubted that such growth was financially, economically or socially feasible.

35. The large disparity between gross domestic product in the rich developed countries and in the poor ones was being further aggravated by the fact that transfers of technology to the more advanced developing countries was not only threatening living standards in the industrialized countries, but was also increasing the divide between the poor majority and the rich elite.

36. He appealed to the United Nations urgently to address those problems in such a way as to ensure that the peoples of the developed countries did not become poorer or feel threatened, that the successful developing countries put a halt to the increasing disparity between rich and poor countries and that the poorer countries were ensured the benefits of globalization. Those requirements were potentially conflicting, and the United Nations should put in place practical rules to mediate between them.

37. **Mr. Ozden** (World Bank), referring to agenda item 54 (c), noted that the interest generated by the recent report of the Global Commission on International Migration was further testimony to the rising importance of migration on the global agenda. For a number of reasons, it had become increasingly difficult for current government policies to restrain international migration.

38. In spite of the scope of the phenomenon, the knowledge base on the economic effects of migration, particularly on countries of origin and on development, was rather limited. He described the work of the World Bank in that regard and in particular the International Migration and Development Research Program, designed to provide basic data and analysis for policy debates on the subject of migration. The Program also sought to identify policies and reforms for improved development outcomes for source and destination countries, and migrants themselves. In addition, the World Bank had recently issued important publications, including original research on migration issues aimed at development experts, policymakers and the academic community.

39. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the subject, much care should be taken to ensure that policy decisions were based on accurate data and analysis. The World Bank had been actively investigating global trends, the determinants and impact of migration and remittances on development and welfare measures, and the "brain drain". The most

striking findings concerned the scope of the brain drain from developing countries, and the low level of employment secured by college-educated migrants living in the industrialized countries.

40. Reiterating the need for systematic and reliable data collection, he said that discussion on migration was shrouded in ignorance, and based on false premises and assumptions. He was therefore pleased that the World Bank could constructively contribute to the academic and policy debate through its expertise in data collection and analysis.

41. **Mr. Ghigo** (Malta) said that Malta had begun to experience illegal migration, as a country of destination, and expressed his delegation's general concern over unregulated human trafficking across the Mediterranean. The rapid increase in the number of illegal immigrants arriving in Malta recently had stretched the country's capacity to absorb the influx, and the financial, social, administrative and judicial burden had, regrettably, also impinged on the quality of humanitarian assistance provided to the genuine cases of asylum-seekers. The geographical location, size and population density of Malta further intensified the pressure. His Government had repeatedly called on other European Union member States and Mediterranean partners to join Malta in tackling the situation it faced, and he expressed his gratitude to the States that had so far responded by extending valuable assistance and cooperation.

42. Malta welcomed the opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration at the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development in September 2006. His Government was committed to actively exploring policy issues on international cooperation to prevent and combat the trafficking in persons as identified in the report of the Secretary-General. He also commended the report of the Global Commission on Migration, which highlighted migration as a transnational issue that required cooperation among States at the subregional, regional and global levels.

43. Malta recognized its international and moral responsibilities and remained committed to providing asylum or protected humanitarian status, in accordance with international conventions. It called for cooperation between countries of origin, transit and other destination countries to deal effectively with the challenge posed by illegal immigration.

44. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus), with reference to globalization and interdependence, said that a valuable message enshrined in the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit was the importance of strengthening global partnership between industrially developed countries and countries that received international assistance. Belarus fully supported the conclusions of the Summit on the importance of the implementation of principles of good governance at all levels, to ensure progress towards internationally agreed development goals. The Outcome stressed the value of designing and implementing national development programmes and strategies in developing countries and Belarus recognized the value of such national programme documents.

45. However, Governments of industrially developed countries bore even greater responsibility to implement sound and effective macroeconomic policy. In an era of globalization, stagnation and failures in their economic mechanisms could lead to colossal economic losses in developing States. By pursuing a multidimensional policy approach through the development of trade and economic relations with States of various regions, Belarus was contributing to the resolution of socio-economic problems of developing countries. His delegation supported the statements made in various forums on the need for the international community to focus more on the needs of middle-income countries and economies in transition in order to help them attain the Millennium Development Goals and subsequently graduate to the category of developed countries.

46. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution on globalization and interdependence would retain the provision underscoring the issues of great concern to economies in transition, thereby helping them capitalize on the benefits of globalization and ensure their full integration into the world economy. A reformed United Nations should create conditions in which each State considered itself a fully fledged member, in a common global process, in search of mechanisms to harness the benefits of globalization, and to mitigate its unfavourable social impact on the vulnerable sectors of society, especially in developing countries.

47. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) said that the Croatian authorities were aware of the undesirable effects of corruption — which undermined investment prospects, undercut legitimate economic competition, distorted economic growth and reinforced inequalities — and

were doing their utmost, at the regional, national and local levels, to promote good governance and eliminate corruption in the interests of an enabling environment for investment and economic growth.

48. To that end, they had created a solid legal framework bringing the Criminal Code into line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols and with the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption. The Criminal Code now defined corruption in the private sector, criminalizing both active and passive involvement in bribery.

49. Among various institutional measures and initiatives, he mentioned the Action Plan to combat corruption, covering organizational measures in the administrative system, decentralization of power, financial liability and other economic measures, international activities, and the promotion of political and civic responsibility. Most measures under the National Programme to Combat Corruption had already been implemented and the Government had formulated a National Strategy against Corruption, shortly to be adopted. It would be implemented by a new anti-corruption body composed of representatives of the public administration and civil society, which would endeavour to prevent corruption and educate the public, in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

50. The National Strategy also provided for the education of judges and public prosecutors working in the area of corruption, with help from the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) programme of the European Union, and the Judicial Academy of the Ministry of Justice. The Council of Europe anti-corruption peer review mechanism (GRECO) had made its second evaluation of Croatia's anti-corruption institutions in March 2005 and its report was expected shortly.

51. Concrete measures had been adopted to increase Croatia's capacity for international and regional cooperation and served as a solid basis for further development of regional networks and frameworks. Most of those measures — the above-mentioned legislative amendments, establishment of a regional prosecutors' network, development of online communication with financial reporting institutions, and participation in regional money-laundering programmes — were already in effect. A witness protection unit had been established and the Europol project would soon be finalized. Croatia was actively combating corruption at all levels and would continue to do so within the framework of the United Nations.

52. **Mr. Kanranja** (Kenya) said that the comprehensive reports of the Secretary-General on globalization and interdependence (A/60/129 and A/60/322) provided useful insights on the framework for conceptualizing and managing globalization in order to enhance development. The reports also provided valuable information on the promotion of institutional and policy coherence for achieving a broad array of economic, social and environmental goals. Well-managed globalization could deliver unprecedented material progress, generate more and better jobs for all, and contribute significantly to reducing world poverty.

53. However, globalization had generated unbalanced outcomes both between countries and across regions. Wealth had been created, but all too many countries did not share the benefits. Most of sub-Saharan Africa continued to deal with shocks and the adjustment problems from the opening up of their economies to foreign competition.

54. Integration into the world economy had become an economic imperative, with the adoption of market-oriented reforms being considered a key to deepening integration. Rapid growth of global markets had not, however, been accompanied by parallel development of economic and social institutions to cater for change in trade orientation or to ensure the smooth and equitable functioning of those markets. The multilateral trading system, which continued to be dominated by unfair trade rules and practices, should substantially lower unfair barriers to market access, especially for goods in which developing countries had a competitive edge.

55. Foreign direct investment had remained uneven because the incentive competition policy had not favoured developing countries, except for the emerging economies of Asia, which had the required capacity to develop sound infrastructural frameworks. The link between macroeconomic stability, social development and growth had also been contentious. In order to attain the internationally agreed development goals, Governments had recently been forced to spend more on education and health, while at the same time maintaining the stability of major macroeconomic fundamentals. Although in Kenya such spending had

resulted in a massive increase in enrolment at the primary level, and a significant decline in infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, it had also forced the Government to downgrade its growth forecasts and to spend less in productive sectors, such as agriculture and infrastructure. That strategy had somewhat affected efforts to fight poverty and the overall process of development because of difficulties to publicly finance key programmes.

56. Infrastructural deficiencies posed a major impediment to investments and competitiveness by increasing the cost of production and were a major disincentive to investors. Sound macroeconomic conditions needed to be buttressed by a sound physical infrastructure, an element that was seriously lacking in Kenya and many other developing countries.

57. Turning to science and technology for development, he outlined his Government's current priorities for the development and application of science, technology and innovation, describing the key national institutions for scientific and technological endeavours and their achievements to date. Kenya had made steady progress in the fields of research, science and technology, which had led to improvements in crop production, livestock, tuberculosis treatment and energy research, among other areas.

58. With reference to international migration and development, Kenya acknowledged the growing importance of migrants not only as a source of livelihood for their own families, but also because remittances were a source of financing for development for many developing countries. The issue of exploitative pricing of remittance transfers should be taken up in greater detail with the leading financial institutions within the context of the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development. Steps should be taken to build a multilateral framework that provided uniform and transparent rules for the cross-border movement of people and balanced the interests of migrants, countries of origin and countries of destination.

59. On the topic of preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin, he said that Kenya had demonstrated its commitment to fighting corruption by being among the first countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Since then, Kenya had enacted anti-corruption laws, carried out a reform of the judiciary, and intensified its efforts to trace illicit assets, including freezing and recovering of illegally acquired funds. A five-year anti-corruption campaign had been launched to create awareness and stigmatize corruption.

60. A globalized world should not only focus on market, macroeconomic and institutional reforms but should also embrace the entire development process and outcomes. All reforms should respond to the needs of the developing countries in their efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals and address the requirements of the poor in an overall strategy to promote more rapid and sustainable development.

61. **Mr. Savua** (Fiji) said that increased cross-border movements were a hallmark of globalization. Migrants were generally regarded as purposeful, entrepreneurial individuals; they were also important emerging actors in economic development. Their remittances had a significant potential impact on long-term economic development. Not only did they respond to the immediate subsistence needs of individuals and families; they also provided income for investments, land purchase, business enterprises and savings, which in turn stimulated local and national economies and national credit ratings.

62. However, international migration had its costs. The topic had not featured prominently in the original framework of the Millennium Development Goals, nor had there been serious analysis of the link between migration and attainment of those Goals. Without such analysis and without national policies that holistically addressed the benefits and costs of migration, individual citizens in small developing economies might well channel their new-found wealth into non-productive consumption that could undermine poverty alleviation and exacerbate the so-called migration culture and dependency syndrome.

63. Technical cooperation between countries of origin and host countries was vital in order to strengthen institutions, enact and enforce laws, and ensure that internationally recognized labour standards were respected in order to protect the rights of migrant workers and provide them with an environment in which they could realize their full potential as remitters.

64. Concerted international attention must be given to the impact of migration on health, gender,

trafficking in persons, the environment and the global partnership for development. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/60/205) and endorsed the choice of topics for discussion at the round table to be held as part of the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. He urged Member States to participate at the ministerial level in that Dialogue, which offered a unique opportunity for establishing the bases of enhanced international cooperation on those issues.

65. **Ms. Kittani** (Iraq) said that, developing countries were endeavouring to introduce reforms that would enable their institutions to adapt to the global economic changes under way. Other key elements to achieving higher economic growth rates and sustainable development goals included foreign direct investment, the harnessing of technology for development and broader trade relations. The challenges of globalization were proving critical, however, for the numerous developing countries that were being further weakened through marginalization in the fields of finance, trade and technology. Globalization, moreover, offered no lasting solutions to the basic problems from which they suffered. The adoption of measures for tackling the disparities in the current global system was therefore imperative.

66. It was equally essential, however, for the developing countries to formulate national development policies and mobilize their resources in a way that achieved their development goals through practices geared to the global market situation. Her own country's development process had been halted by years of armed conflict and the depletion of natural resources by the former regime. As a result, not only had it been unable to keep pace with developments in the global economy but it had also fallen from its previous position as a provider of development assistance into that of a debtor. Today, however, Iraq was looking forward to returning to its natural position, rebuilding its economic institutions and making up for lost opportunities. To that end, crucial adjustments to the economic, tax and trade sectors were already being made.

67. **Mr. Salazar Pineda** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) associated his delegation with the view that neo-liberal globalization had adverse effects on attempts to build a just and mutually supportive world. But globalization and interdependence were not modern phenomena: they had existed for 500 years, ever since the Europeans had arrived on the American continent. Europe had made scientific and cultural advances and plundered the continent's resources in the name of progress, but solely in the interests of its own development. European trade had received an enormous boost with the addition of the American continent's resources, a trade that fed Western development while it annihilated peoples, civilizations and cultures. On the American continent alone, 50 million Africans had been uprooted and murdered. Nothing had changed. The vastly unbalanced distribution of the costs of globalization was continuing and a small group of countries, businesses and social and political elites reaped the benefits of hegemonistic neo-liberal globalization.

68. The fundamental imbalances inherent in globalization were manifested every day in the form of hunger, disease and poverty, and millions of people still died of starvation each year. With the dominance of the culture of the economically powerful nations, the brutal extension of market principles had created new forms of inequality and advanced not pluralism but the conflict of cultures to the detriment of many of the world's languages, allowing five countries to monopolize the cultural industries, including the Internet.

69. The reports of the Secretary-General on that issue, glossed over the social and cultural situation in the world and placed a one-dimensional emphasis on growth, income generation and national capacity-building. The eradication of poverty and its structural causes must be addressed in a comprehensive manner because, whatever the time frame used, the growth of economic activity had resulted only in the accumulation of wealth by a few and the increased poverty of the majority.

70. Turning to the subject of science and technology for development, he stated that his Government had taken measures to consolidate a national science and technology system; it was collating experiences and projects with international academic and scientific centres and exploring South-South scientific cooperation through a proactive policy of graduate and postgraduate training, in a context of respectful dialogue concerning the traditional peoples' resources and knowledge.

71. He alluded to the fruitful experience of the International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, headquartered in Trieste and New Delhi, of which his country was a founder member and with which it maintained a network of affiliated national centres. Training scientists from the developing countries and encouraging them to work in their own countries was a response to one of the many negative manifestations of globalization — the brain drain, which should be discussed with the best political will at the High-level Dialogue during the next session of the General Assembly. The main flaw of the 2005 World Summit had been failure to deal with the issues of inhuman globalization, with development, and with intolerable poverty.

72. **Mr. Silva** (Cape Verde) said that migration brought both benefits and challenges to countries of origin and destination alike. Half of all Cape Verdeans lived abroad as emigrants. The Government considered them to be an enormous asset to the country's development, especially in terms of their remittances, which accounted for 15 per cent of gross domestic product. In 1991, the Government had created a ministry for Cape Verdean migrant communities and an institute devoted to migrant worker issues. Both those bodies protected and promoted the interests of emigrants at the national, regional and international levels, apprised them of their rights and helped them form associations.

73. Remittances had a visibly positive impact and contributed to the fight against poverty, to academic training, to the emergence of small enterprises and to the creation of temporary jobs. In that context, emigrants were given special incentives to invest in and return to the country: favourable bank loan and deposit rates; exemption from customs duty on their imported possessions, and guaranteed property rights upon investment in Cape Verde.

74. The country was socially and politically stable; it was therefore for economic reasons that Cape Verdeans emigrated. The resulting brain drain posed a major challenge to the country, as it did to all developing countries. A recent World Bank study had placed Cape Verde first in Africa in terms of the proportion of its educated and skilled workforce that had emigrated. The country could achieve a higher level of development if all its educated and skilled migrant workers who chose to live in countries with higher pay and a higher standard of living returned to their homeland. That could be achieved only through national, regional and international action to enable the country to create conditions that encouraged skilled and educated residents to stay and those that had left to return.

75. The High-level Dialogue scheduled for 2006 should identify ways of maximizing the development benefits of migration and minimizing its negative impact.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.